

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3123

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, EC, IS, ME

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN MEDIA CONDEMN PROPOSED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SINAI

REF: ALGIERS 2097

1. ON SEPT. 27, GOA FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY EL MOUDJAHID PRODUCED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL PROMISED PRECEDING DAY (REFTEL) CONDEMNING PLAN TO SEND 200 US TECHNICIANS TO SINAI AND CASTIGATING GENERAL US MIDEAST POLICY BACK TO JOHN FOSTER DULLES.

2. AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH KOREA, PAPER SAYS, COME TO MIND AT A TIME WHEN "GRAVE CONSEQUENCE" OF "RAMADAN AGREEMENTS" IS ARRIVAL OF 200 AMERICANS WHO WILL "ABOVE ALL ELSE WATCH OVER SECURITY OF ISRAEL." EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT THIS "DIRECT IMPLANTATION OF US IMPERIALISM IN HEART OF ARAB WORLD--THAT NO ARGUMENT... COULD EVER JUSTIFY--CONSTITUTES WITHOUT DOUBT EXTREMELY ALARMING TURNING POINT IN MIDDLE EAST", AND FINDS THIS ACCEPTANCE OF US PRESENCE BY AN ARAB PARTY "REGRETTABLE"

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IF NOT SCANDALOUS" GIVEN LONG-TERM US DESIRE "TO

NEUTRALIZE EGYPT" AND "DIVIDE ARABS."

3. "REALPOLITIK," PAPER CONTINUES, HAS CAUSED "CERTAIN ONES" TO PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO TRAP AND TO HELP REALIZE LONG-HELD DESIGNS OF STATE DEPARTMENT TO ELIMINATE EGYPT FROM MIDEAST CONFLICT AND THEREBY TO ASSURE SURVIVAL AND STRENGTHENING OF ISRAEL. AMERICAN WISH TO DIVIDE AND WEAKEN ARABS ALSO AIMED, EDITORIAL SAYS, AT SPLITTING OPEC, AT SABOTAGING ARAB DIALOGUE WITH EUROPE AND AFRICA, AND ULTIMATELY AT GIVING PENTAGON BASE IN GULF TO COMPENSATE FOR LOSSES IN FAR EAST BY "PERMITTING CREATION OF A SUEZ-INDIAN OCEAN AXIS." NOT CERTAIN, PAPER ADDS, THAT CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL LEAVE SECRETARY FREE HAND, AND IN ANY CASE, ONLY "UNBOUNDED SCORN" FOR ARABS COULD HAVE LED TO BELIEF THAT LATTER WOULD ACCEPT AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITTED ISRAELIS TO BE REINFORCED BY SUCH ITEMS AS PERSHING MISSILES. PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, WILL BE "AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE'S ACHILLES HEEL," EVEN IF OTHER OBSTACLES TO HIS "INTRIGUES" DO NOT APPEAR.

4. STATE TV HAS CARRIED EXTENSIVE SUMMARY OF EDITORIAL ON SEPT. 27 BUT IT HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN ARABIC-LANGUAGE PRESS.

5. COMMENT: DIRECT TARGETTING OF US, CLEARER THOUGH STILL INDIRECT REFERENCES TO EGYPT AND HARSH TONE OF EDITORIAL REPRESENTS ESCALATION OF ALGERIAN REACTION AGAINST ACCORD. THEY STILL HOLDING BACK. NO IDENTIFIABLE ALGERIAN OFFICIAL IS YET ON RECORD WITH ANY COMMENT AND EGYPT STILL NOT TARGETTED BY NAME. WHILE WE BELIEVE ALGERIANS FIRMLY RESENT, SUSPECT AND OPPOSE AGREEMENT, THEY APPARENTLY STILL PREFER PUBLICLY TO SIT ON SIDELINES A WHILE LONGER.PARKER

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